NUMB. CCXCII.

The SPECTATOR.

Illam, quicquid agit, quoquo Veſtigia flectit,
Componit furtim, ſubſequiturque decor. Tibull. L. 4.

Monday, February 4. 1712.

S no one can be ſaid to enjoy Health, who is only not ſick, without he feel within himſelf a lightſome and invigorating Principle, which will not ſuffer him to reſt, but ſpurs him on to Action; ſo in the Practice of every Virtue, there is ſome additional Grace required, to give a Claim of excelling in that particular Action. A Diamond may be nothing, though the Value be ſtill intrinſick the ſame; and the ſame Good may be done in different Degrees of Luſtre. No Man ſhould be ſatisfied with himſelf that he barely does well, but ſhould perform every thing in the beſt and most becoming Manner that he is able.

Tully tells us, he wrote his Book of *Offices*, becauſe there was no Time of Life in which ſome correſpondent Duty might not be practis'd; nor is there a Duty without a certain Decency accompanying it, by which every Virtue is joined to will be doubled. Another may do the ſame Thing, and yet the Action want that Air and Beauty which diſtinguiſh it from others; like that amiable Sun-ſhine *Titian* is ſaid to have diffus'd in his Landſchapes; which denotes them his, and has been always unequall'd by any other Perſon. There is no one Action in which this Quality I am ſpeaking of will be more ſenſibly perceived, than in granting a Requeſt, or doing an Office of Kindneſs. *Manilius*, by his Way of conſenting to a Benefit, ſhall make it loſe its Name; while *Cæſar* ſhews the Kindneſs and the Obligation: From the one the deſir'd Requeſt drops indeed at laſt, but with a doubtful a Brow, that the obliged has almoſt as much reaſon to reſent the Manner of beſtowing it, as to be thankful for the Favour it ſelf. *Cæſar* with a pleaſing Air, to give him an Opportunity of doing an Act of Humanity, meets the Petition half Way, and conſents to a Requeſt with a Countenance which proclaims the Satisfaction of his Mind in aſſiſting the Diſtreſſed.

The Decency then that is to be obſerved in Liberality, ſeems to conſiſt in its being performed with ſuch Cheerfulneſs, as may expreſs the godlike Pleaſure is to be met with in obliging one's Fellow-Creatures; that may ſhew good Nature and Benevolence overflow'd, and do not, as in ſome Men, run upon the Tilt, and Taſte of the Sediments of a grutching uncommunicative Diſpoſition.

Since I have intimated that the greateſt Decorum is to be preſerved in the beſtowing our good Offices, I will illuſtrate it a little by an Example drawn from private Life, which carries with it ſuch a Profuſion of Liberality, that it can be exceeded by nothing but the Humanity and good Nature which accompanies it. It is a Letter of *Pliny*'s, which I ſhall here tranſlate, becauſe the Action will beſt appear in its firſt Dreſs of Thought, without any foreign or ambitious Ornaments.

PLINY to *QUINTILIAN.*

'THO' I am fully acquainted with the Contentment and juſt Moderation of your Mind, and the Conformity the Education you have given your Daughter bears to your own Character; yet ſince ſhe is ſuddenly to be married to a Perſon of Diſtinction, whoſe Figure in the World makes it neceſſary for her to be at a more than ordinary Expence in Cloaths and Equipage ſuitable to her Husband's Quality; by which, tho' her intrinſick Worth be not augmented, yet will it receive both Ornament and Luſtre: And knowing your Eſtate to be as moderate as the Riches of your Mind are abundant, I muſt challenge to my ſelf ſome Part of the Burthen; and as a Parent of your Child, I preſent her with Twelve hundred and fifty Crowns towards theſe Expences; which Sum had been much larger, had I not feared the Smallneſs of it would be the greateſt Inducement with you to accept of it. Farewell.

Thus ſhould a Benefaction be done with a good Grace, and ſhine in the ſtrongeſt Point of Light; it ſhould not only anſwer all the Hopes and Exi-

gences

gences of the Receiver, but even out-run his Wiſhes: 'Tis this happy manner of Behaviour which adds new Charms to it, and ſoftens thoſe Gifts of Art and Nature, which otherwiſe would be rather diſtaſteful than agreeable. Without it Valour would degenerate into Brutality, Learning into Pedantry, and the genteeleſt Demeanour into Affectation. Even Religion its ſelf, unleſs Decency be the Handmaid which waits upon her, is apt to make People appear guilty of Sourneſs and ill Humour: But this ſhews Virtue in her firſt original Form, adds a Comelineſs to Religion, and gives its Profeſſors the juſteſt Title to the Beauty of Holineſs. A Man fully inſtructed in this Art, may aſſume a thouſand Shapes, and pleaſe in all: He may do a thouſand Actions ſhall become none other but himſelf; not that the things themſelves are different, but the manner of doing them.

If you examine each Feature by its ſelf, *Aglaura* and *Calliclea* are equally handſome; but take them in the Whole, and you cannot ſuffer the Compariſon: The one is full of numberleſs nameleſs Graces, the other of as many nameleſs Faults.

The Comelineſs of Perſon and Decency of Behaviour, add infinite Weight to what is pronounc'd by any one. 'Tis the want of this that often makes the Rebukes and Advice of old rigid Perſons of no Effect, and leave a Diſpleaſure in the Minds of thoſe they are directed to: But Youth and Beauty, if accompanied with a graceful and becoming Severity, is of mighty Force to raiſe, even in the moſt Profligate, a Senſe of Shame. In *Milton* the Devil is never deſcrib'd aſham'd but once, and that at the Rebuke of a beauteous Angel.

So ſpake the Cherub, and his grave Rebuke
Severe in youthful Beauty, added Grace
Invincible: Abaſh'd the Devil ſtood,
And felt how awful Goodneſs is, and ſaw
Virtue in her own Shape how lovely! ſaw, and pin'd
His Loſs.

The Care of doing nothing unbecoming has accompanied the greateſt Minds to their laſt Moments: They avoided even an indecent Poſture in the very Article of Death. Thus *Cæſar* gather'd his Robe about him, that he might not fall in a Manner unbecoming of himſelf; and the greateſt Concern that appeared in the Behaviour of *Lucretia*, when ſhe ſtabb'd her ſelf, was, that her Body ſhould lie in an Attitude worthy the Mind which had inhabited it.

——*Ne non procumbat honeſtè*
Extrema hæc etiam cura, cadentis erat.

'Twas her laſt Thought, How decently to fall.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Am a young Woman without a Fortune; but 'of a very high Mind: That is, Good Sir, 'I am to the laſt Degree proud and Vain. I am 'ever railing at the Rich, for doing things which, 'upon Search into my Heart, I find I am only 'angry becauſe I cannot do the ſame my ſelf. I wear 'the Hoop'd Petticoat, and am all in Callicoes 'what the fineſt are in Silks. It is a dreadf 'thing to be poor and proud; therefore, if y 'pleaſe, a Lecture on that Subject for the Sa 'faction of

Your Uneaſy,
Humble Servant.
Jezebel

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At Mr. Penkethman's Toy-ſhop over-again Garraway's Coffee-houſe in Exchange Alley, are to be ſold, a Guineas a Set (19 Prints in a Set) the curious Prints of Sign Dorigny, lately come from Italy: Done from the Paintings of famous Raphael Urbin, and others the moſt celebrated Maſter Rome. Alſo, at the ſame Place, are Subſcriptions taken for Cartons at Hampton-Court, to be done by the ſame Hand.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedia

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Ha Market, this preſent Monday, being the 4th of Febr be preſented a Comedy call'd, The Wife's Relief, or the Hu Cure. By Her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admit hind the Scenes.

Its ordered by the Directors, That all Per concerned in the Offices on new-born Children, and alſo on y Children, kept in Iron-monger-Lane, do make their Re-entr the Room of thoſe Children they laſt claimed on, and alſo their quarterly as well as monthly Contribution on or before 20th of this Inſtant February. And it's further ordered, That Contributors neglecting to pay (their quarterly Contributions cording to the 7th Article, and their enſuing monthly Contribu according to the 8th Article of the Propoſals of the ſaid Office be peremptorily excluded; it being found very prejudicial Office, upon the Conſultation of the laſt Meeting of the D choſen for managing and determining all Matters relating to ſame.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

On Tueſday the 5th Inſtant, at Lloyd's C houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 4 in the Afternoon, (only Lot) viz. 13 Pipes of excellent ---- Brandy, genuine, and true Flavour, imported by the Herbert Galley, (the beſt ſh rived from Leghorn, and landed the laſt Week: Now in (fronting the Thames) next the dark Gateway at Galley K tween the Cuſtom-houſe and Tower-dock. To be ſeen and all this Day, and all Day to Morrow till the Time of Sale, ſold by Tho. Tomkins Broker in Seething-lane in Tower-

Loſt or ſtolen in or near Covent-Garden a plain Silver Sword, with a drops Hilt poliſh'd, the Workman's W. L. on the Pummel, with a Coningſmark Blade and Scab with a Silver guilt Handle ſmall Wier, and ſingle Wire h Whoever gives Notice of it, ſo as it may be had again, to Mr. ping Sword Cutler in Exchange-Alley near Birchin-Lane, ſhall a Guinea Reward and no Queſtions ask'd; and if already ſ their Money again with Content.

This Day is publiſh'd,

A Sermon preach'd at St. Paul's Covent-Gar on the 30th of January, 1711-12. being the Anniverſary-Faſt for Martyrdom of King Charles I. By the honourable Robert L Lloyd of Cheam in Surry, one of Her Majeſty's late Juſtices Peace for the ſaid County, Rector of St. Paul's Covent-Garden Chaplain to the moſt noble his Grace the Duke of Bedford. Pr for A. Baldwin in Warwick-lane, where may be had his other mons.

The Vapours in Women infallibly Cured in Inſtant, ſo as never to return again, by an admirable Chymic cret, a few drops of which takes off a Fit in a Moment, diſpo neſs, clears the Head, takes away all Swimming, Giddiness, V neſs of Sight, Flaſhings in the Face, &c. to a Miracle, and mo tainly prevents the Vapours returning again; for by Rooting the very Cauſe it perfectly Cures as Hundreds have experienc alſo ſtrengthens the Stomach and Bowels, and cauſes Excellen ſettled Health. Is ſold only at Mrs. Osborn's, Toy-ſhop, and Crown under St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleet-ſtreet.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

A very neat Pocket Edition of the SPECTA in 2 Vol. 12°, Printed for S. Buckley at the Dolphin in Lit tain, and J. Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-againſt Cat ſtreet in the Strand.

The laſt new Comedy, call'd, The Wife's R lief; or, the Husband's Cure. By Mr. Charles Johnſon. Printed Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpears Head over againſt Katherine-S the Strand.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in: as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beaufort-Buildings* in the *Strand*.